

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

REF: USUN 0146

1. QUOTED BELOW AS THE SECOND PARAGRAPH OF THIS TELEGRAM IS THE TEXT OF THE THIRD PARTY NOTE FROM SYG WALDHEIM DATED 16 JANUARY, CONCERNING VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO IFAD REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPHS ONE AND TWO OF REFTEL. THIS NOTE HAS NOW BEEN CABLED BY THE SYG TO 38 COUNTRIES AS WELL AS TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COMMISSION, AND THE SYG OF OPEC.

2. QUOTE

YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL RECALL THAT RESOLUTION XIII OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. BOTH AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION AND THE THIRTIETH SESSION THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS SINCE REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY OF ESTABLISHING THIS FUND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN THIS RESPECT, THE ASSEMBLY AT ITS SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION CALLED UPON DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN A POSITION TO DO SO TO PLEDGE, ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROPOSED FUND TO ENABLE IT TO COME INTO BEING WITH INITIAL

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RESOURCES OF ONE BILLION SDR'S.

LAST MAY, I CONVENED THE FIRST MEETING OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. THE FINAL MEETING OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN ROME ON 28 JANUARY 1976. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTIETH SESSION REQUESTED ME TO CONVENE A CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE MEETING OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES INDICATES THAT IT HAS COMPLETED THE PREPARATORY WORK. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER EXPRESSED THE DESIRE THAT IN CONVENING THIS CONFERENCE I TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INTER ALIA THE PROSPECTS, BASED ON INDICATIONS OF THE INTENTIONS OF STATES, OF REACHING AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE THE TARGET FOR THE INITIAL RESOURCES OF THE PROPOSED FUND.

THE CREATION OF THIS FUND WILL CLEARLY MARK A GREAT STEP FORWARD TOWARDS TACKLING THE PROBLEM OF EXPANDING WORLD FOOD PRODUCTION, WHICH WILL NOT BE ACHIEVED UNLESS THERE ARE MAJOR INCREASES IN FINANCIAL RESOURCES EARMARKED FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. MANY COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED THEIR INTENTION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND, BUT SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING THE INITIAL TARGET CAN ONLY BE REACHED IF ALL POTENTIAL DONORS ARE PREPARED TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION.

IT IS NOW UNIVERSALLY REALIZED THAT A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE IF THE POPULATION OF OUR PLANET IS TO BE SPARED THE PLIGHT OF HUNGER AND THE SCOURGE OF FAMINE. I WOULD THEREFORE URGE ALL POTENTIAL DONORS IN BOTH THE DEVELOPED AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD TO TAKE IMMEDIATELY THE NECESSARY ACTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS HISTORIC VENTURE AND ENABLE THE INITIAL GOAL OF ONE BILLION SDR'S TO BE REACHED.

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